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Gray, Hillard, Lamson, Paige, Pierce, Quincy, Shattuck, Ticknor, Welles, Willard, and Young.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, Jan. 1, 1846, 12 M. Meeting held this day, Christmas happening on the stated day of meeting,* — the President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

Donations were communicated by the Librarian from Rev. Dr. Parkman, Rev. Mr. Budington, Mr. S. G. Deeth, the Government of the United States, the American Philosophical Society, the Kentucky Historical Society, and Mr. Winthrop, of this Society.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated a letter from Mr. J. P. Tracy, of Williamsburg, Massachusetts, accompanying a copy of a letter written during Philip's War by one John Sharpe, of Muddy River.†

* The record of this meeting is headed "December meeting." — Eds.

† This letter is printed in the *Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. X. p. 65, with some unimportant variations from the Society's copy.

Mr. Savage has written beneath this letter: —

"I presume the writer of the above to be the Lieutenant Sharpe who was killed 18th April following, with Captain Wadsworth, by the Indians, at Sudbury. Dr. Pierce can tell. The letter must be printed. J. S."

Dr. Pierce then writes as follows: —

"It was Robert Sharp, brother of John Sharp, who was killed by the Indians, in Sudbury.

"1. The John Sharp, writer of the above letter,

"2. Was father of Martha Sharp, who married Joseph Buckminster, a farmer in Brookline, who moved to Framingham;

"3. Grandfather of Joseph Buckminster, who lived and died a farmer, in Framingham;

"4. Great-grandfather of the Rev. Joseph Buckminster, of Rutland;

The President, from the Standing Committee, to whom it was referred to report upon the expediency of applying to the Legislature for an alteration of the charter, so as to allow an increase in the number of members, made a report upon the subject, which was referred to the next meeting; and the Recording Secretary was directed to give notice to the members of the Society that the subject would then be considered.

The President, from the Committee on the subject of the Trumbull papers, made a report, taken into a new draft; and it was

*Voted, That the Corresponding Secretary communicate a copy thereof to the Secretary of State of Connecticut.**

"5. Great-great-grandfather of the Rev. Joseph Buckminster, D.D., Portsmouth, New Hampshire;

"6. Great-great-great-grandfather of the Rev. Joseph S. Buckminster, of Brattle Square Church, Boston;

"7. Great-great-great-great-grandfather of the Rev. S. K. Lothrop's children, Boston.

"I know the spot where John Sharp's house stood. William Sharp, son of John, moved to Pomfret, Connecticut, the descendants of whom are living in Pomfret and Brooklyn, Connecticut.

"The name of Sharp, among the magnates of our ancestors, is now extinct, in Brookline, by the death of Stephen Sharp, Esq., an old bachelor, 22d July, 1820, æt. seventy-two.

"We have, however, several descendants, of other names, of Robert Sharp, who, with his brother John, came from Dorchester to Muddy River, in the early settlement of the place.

"We have now among us several fifth cousins of Mrs. Thomas Lee and the Rev. Mrs. S. K. Lothrop, by the name of Clark and Croft.

"Attest.

JOHN PIERCE,

For forty-nine years fifth pastor of the First Congregational Church in Brookline, Massachusetts."

Eds.

* The following is the Committee's report:—

"The Committee to whom was referred the resolve of the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut in May last, relative to the letters and documents called the 'Trumbull Papers,' in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society, having given that respectful consideration to the subject which its

Mr. LUNT presented a copy of the early records of the First Church in Plymouth.*

importance requires, and the high origin of the subject would naturally attract, report, —

“That in the preamble to the resolve by the Legislature of that State it is assumed that numerous official letters and valuable correspondence, intimately connected with the executive and legislative acts of the State during an important and interesting period of its history, was collected by His Excellency Governor Trumbull during his administration, which, in the opinion of the Assembly, ought to have been deposited in the office of the Secretary of that State; and, thereupon, by said resolve, the Governor is requested to adopt measures proper to obtain possession of the same, and them to deposit for safe-keeping in the office of the Secretary in Hartford; that it would hardly be presumed that the Governor of any independent Commonwealth would have withdrawn from the public archives large masses of official original documents, and transported the same a distance of many miles from the seat of government, where the same of right belonged, unto his own home in a remote town, especially when it must be probably apparent, from the nature of the papers, that they were so withdrawn at several times, particularly when, as in the papers under consideration, the case would show there can be no connection between most of them, being of dates widely separate by an interval of more than a century; that such improbability is rendered stronger in the matter before us by the facts that this collection was surely the gathering of near half a century, made by the elder Governor Trumbull, who died in 1785, and these papers, so gathered, had remained at the residence of the Governor in Lebanon, after his death, nearly ten years, in possession of his family, when they were delivered, without distinction between one part and another, to this Society, having been, by letter of April 15, 1794, from David Trumbull, Esq., son of the said Governor, at Lebanon, to our Corresponding Secretary, the venerable Jeremy Belknap, D.D., offered, in the name of the family, as a donation to this Society, — more especially as the writer in his letter states it to have been the intention of his father to preserve the collection for some public institution, as materials for a part of American history, and this Society was not for so many as seven years after his death first formed, nor incorporated for two years more, our charter bearing date but a few weeks before that of the letter of David Trumbull, whence it may be concluded, beyond any reasonable doubt, that these papers were by the illustrious collector in his lifetime, and by his family afterwards, regarded as his private property; that from our own records it appears plainly that these papers had been received by our said Corresponding Secretary in the year 1794 or 1795, who, it is believed, went personally for the purpose to Lebanon, and in this latter year had correspondence, we know, about portions of their contents with the Hon. Jonathan Trumbull, then a

* The earlier part of these records was printed by the Rev. Alexander Young in his “Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers,” Boston, 1841, pp. 3–108. See also the Preface to that work. — Eds.

The Secretary of the Commonwealth presented a communication in relation to the Commonwealth's claim

Senator of the United States, afterwards many years Governor of Connecticut; and that, since the same papers came into the hands of Dr. Belknap (who died in 1798) until the present time, they have always remained in possession of this Society, in its public Library, without doubt of our property therein; nor, before the application in September last by the letter from the Secretary of the State of Connecticut, was any adverse claim ever supposed or thought of; that on examination of this great mass of papers, which the Society had caused, between forty and fifty years ago, to be bound up in twenty-three folio volumes, the last is found to be wholly comprised of printed sheets, as copies of Orders from the Lords of Trade and Plantations, Proclamations of Governors and others of several States, and similar documents, and the nineteenth alone (the volume lost in the great conflagration of November, 1825) contained papers of earlier dates than 1751, indeed chiefly filled with those of private interest, original or copies, a century older, for the most part, than the earliest date of the remaining volumes; and, beside, the most valuable part of all that volume had been recently printed in the first of third series, being the twenty-first volume of the Collections published by this Society, while the other manuscript volumes are observed to be altogether of the period between 1751 and 1784, inclusive, of which no page has, it is believed, yet been selected for publication, the matter being extremely miscellaneous, the value attaching to which must be ascertained in general one or two hundred years hence, there frequently occurring double copies of letters or instructions from the British Government, always issued in quadruplicate, so that probably one full series of such papers did remain in the archives of the respective colonial governments of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and the rest; that to the students of our early New England history it has long been universally known that no person, since the time of Prince, author of the 'Annals,' had done so much towards the preservation of its original muniments as the first Governor Trumbull, whose assiduous diligence had obtained stores of the correspondence of most of the prominent early settlers of our country in its various colonies, and even two (being the earliest) of the three original manuscripts of the History of New England from 1630 to 1648, by our first Governor Winthrop, that had been in possession of Prince, besides many other papers of the sons and grandsons of this father of the chief Colony, in addition to a vast amount of his own predecessors, and contemporaries in most of the Colonies of New York and New England, in searching for which he would naturally be most successful in his nearest neighborhood, as in these volumes appears, which include many rough, probably incomplete, drafts of letters by the Governors of that Colony, — Law, Wolcott, Fitch, and Pitkin, who had been chief magistrates of Connecticut in regular succession before himself, — yet all of these, including the papers addressed to those predecessors, not amounting in bulk to one sixth part of the papers addressed to Governor Trumbull himself, with his answers; and, lastly, that these papers so addressed would be discovered usually to be private in their nature, or else duplicate or triplicate copies, and, of course, the

of property in the three volumes of Hutchinson Papers in the Society's Library, and which purport to have been "presented to the Society by the permission of the Governor and Council." Whereupon, it was

Voted, To refer the subject to Messrs. Everett, Sparks, and Francis, to report thereupon.*

answers merely to be first plans or copies, not such complete writings as the Secretary, where they were of a public nature, should have preserved in his archives, being the officer of the public in inferior degree, but under equal obligation, as the Governor himself. Wherefore, the Committee conclude with a decided judgment that the opinion of the Assembly of Connecticut that these papers ought to have been deposited in the office of the Secretary of that State is founded on a mistaken assumption; and that the exalted character of Governor Trumbull, and of his four immediate predecessors in the chair of chief magistrate of that Colony, may, in all future time, be confidently referred to as adequate and perfect vindication from the consequence of such assumption; and they recommend, in conclusion, that the trust of this Society in preservation of the papers usually called the 'Trumbull Papers' be ever sacredly fulfilled.

"JAMES SAVAGE, }
 JOSIAH QUINCY, } Committee.
 I. P. DAVIS, }

"BOSTON, Jan. 1, 1846."

EDS.

* The following is Dr. Palfrey's communication:—

"COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

"SECRETARY'S OFFICE, BOSTON,
 Jan. 1st, 1846.

"TO THE PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF THE
 MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

"GENTLEMEN,—In the course of some recent proceedings for the completion and arrangement of the ancient papers in this office, my attention has been drawn to three volumes, called the 'Hutchinson Papers,' now in the Library of the Historical Society. I suppose these papers to have come into our Library by mistake, and to be the property of the Commonwealth.

"They are referred to, in the record of the meeting of the Historical Society on the twenty-seventh day of January, 1820, as having been 'presented to the Society by the permission of the Governor and Council.' I have had a careful examination made of the Council records of the period, and do not find any proceeding of the Governor and Council to this effect. Nor would it have been within the constitutional competency of the Executive Department of the Government. Such a disposition of the papers could only have been made by an

Rev. JOHN L. SIBLEY, of Cambridge, was elected Resident Member, *vice* Mr. Justice Story, deceased.

No communications were received from the members of the Second Section.

Present — The President, J. Davis, Felt, Francis, Hoar, Lincoln, Lowell, Lunt, Palfrey, Sparks, Ripley, Willard, and Worcester.

MONTHLY MEETING, JANUARY, 1846.

Thursday, Jan. 29, 1846, 12 M. The President in the chair.

The Recording Secretary being absent, CHARLES F. ADAMS was chosen Recording Secretary *pro tem*.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from Messrs. S. G. Drake, J. P. Dabney, T. R. Marvin, George Hood, John Langdon, Henry H. Crapo, Dr. Jacob Porter, Mr. T. P. Shaffer, Messrs. Appleton, and from Messrs. Lunt, Savage, Palfrey, Bowen, Ticknor, Greenleaf, Codman, and Winthrop, of the Society.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated a letter of acceptance from Mr. Sibley.

Act or Resolve of the Legislature, and no law so disposing of them appears to have been passed.

"I have very respectfully to request that an examination may be made into these facts, in order that, if they and my opinion founded upon them be confirmed, the Society may take measures for restoring the volumes in question to the custody of this office.

"I have the honor to be, Gentlemen, with the highest respect, your obedient servant,

"JOHN G. PALFREY."

EDS.

The report of the Committee on the subject of the increase of members, which was postponed to the present meeting, was taken up, and, after discussion, was rejected.*

Mr. TICKNOR presented an anonymous volume of the late William Tudor, for the benefit of the memoir proposed, and it was committed to the Committee appointed at the May meeting upon the subject of a memoir on Mr. Tudor.†

Voted, That the Standing Committee be directed to consider the expediency of making a distinction between quarterly and monthly meetings.

No communications were received from the members of the Third Section.

Present—The President, C. F. Adams, Appleton, Codman, J. Davis, I. P. Davis, Felt, Frothingham, F. C. Gray, Greenleaf, Hoar, Jenks, Lincoln, Lowell, Lunt, Paige, Pierce, Quincy, Ripley, Robbins, Shattuck, Sibley, Ticknor, Worcester, and Young.

* The following is the report:—

“HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Jan. 1, 1846.

“The Standing Committee, who were at the last meeting instructed to report at this meeting, ‘upon the expediency of applying to the Legislature for an alteration of the charter, so as to allow an increase in the number of members,’ beg leave to submit the following as their report:—

“The Act of the Legislature incorporating this Society, passed on the 19th of February, 1794, provides, ‘that the members of said Society shall never be more than sixty (except honorary members residing without the limits of this Commonwealth).’

“Your Committee are of opinion, that it is expedient to apply to the Legislature for an act repealing the said clause, and authorizing the Society to regulate, from time to time, the number of its members by its own By-Laws.

“By order of the Committee.

“F. C. GRAY, *Chairman.*”

EDS.

† See Proceedings, Vol. I. p. 432, note. — EDS.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, Feb. 26, 1846, 12 M. The President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from the late Rev. William C. Woodbridge, the New York Historical Society, the New Jersey Historical Society, Hon. William C. Rives, the New York Mercantile Library Association, Alexander H. Everett, Dr. Edward Jarvis, Dr. Albert G. Upham, Richard Frothingham, Rev. Martin Moore, Dorchester Antiquarian and Historical Society, P. H. Hayward, Francis B. Crowninshield, Don Pedro de Angelis, Henry R. Schoolcraft, Daniel P. King, and from Messrs. Savage, Pierce, Greenleaf, and Sparks, of the Society.

Mr. FELT, in the absence of the Corresponding Secretary, communicated the following letters: viz., 1. A letter of acceptance from Mr. Bowen. 2. A letter from Mr. Benjamin P. Poore, in relation to his doings in obtaining copies of documents from the French archives. 3. A letter from Hon. John Jay, Domestic Corresponding Secretary of the New York Historical Society, in behalf of that Society, stating that "the Congress of the United States contemplate printing only one hundred copies of the several volumes on scientific subjects, prepared from the materials collected by the exploring expedition"; and that the Society have passed a resolution, appointing "a committee of three, — viz., Hon. Benjamin F. Butler, Professor John McVicar, D.D., and Hon. John McKean, — to prepare a respectful memorial

to Congress, soliciting them to extend the number of the several works not yet published, so as to furnish copies to the various institutions of learning and literary and scientific societies of the country"; and praying the co-operation of the Massachusetts Historical Society in this application. Whereupon, it was

Voted, That Hon. Nathan Appleton, William H. Prescott, Esq., and Hon. Charles F. Adams be a committee with full power to co-operate with the New York Historical Society in the foregoing application.

The President communicated from the Hon. Daniel P. King, of the House of Representatives in Congress, a copy of a bill reported by him from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, "for the erection of a monument in memory of General Joseph Warren." *

Voted, That the Committee on the Index to the third decade of the Society's Collections be enlarged by the addition of two members.

* The following is the bill reported by Mr. King:—

"TWENTY-NINTH CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION.

H. R. 176. (Report No. 167.)

"Jan. 30, 1846. Read and committed to the Committee of the whole House on the State of the Union.

"Mr. Daniel P. King, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, reported the following bill:—

"A BILL for the erection of a monument in memory of General Joseph Warren.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to pay, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to the Treasurer of the Massachusetts Historical Society the sum of two thousand dollars, whenever, within two years from the seventeenth of June, eighteen hundred and forty-six, it shall be made to appear to said Secretary that a suitable monument has been erected, under the direction of said Society, to the memory of General Joseph Warren, who was slain in the battle of Bunker Hill."

For a history of what has been done towards erecting monuments to General Warren, see Frothingham's "Life and Times of Joseph Warren," p. 547.—Eds.

Messrs. PAIGE and LINCOLN were chosen as additional members. Mr. Paige having been excused at his own request, Mr. CHARLES F. ADAMS was chosen in his stead.

Voted, That the Committee on the Index to the third decade be requested to report to the Society on the subject-matter of preparing the index as soon as may be.

Mr. C. F. ADAMS, from the First Section, read an interesting letter from the late Hon. Joseph Hawley to the late President John Adams, dated July 25, 1774.*

Present — The President, C. F. Adams, Appleton, Blagden, Bowen, I. P. Davis, Felt, Frothingham, Lamson, Lincoln, Minot, Paige, Pierce, Quincy, Robbins, Sibley, Willard, and Young.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, March 26, 1846, 12 M. The President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from Messrs. Charles Brown, Rev. Levi W. Leonard, Boston Mercantile Library Association, J. Wingate Thornton, the American Philosophical Society, Hon. John Davis, of Worcester, Mr. Somerby, H. C. Decanver, Messrs. Rich & Sons, George Folsom, James Loring, J. H. Eastburn, and from Messrs. Sparks, Winthrop, and Willard, of the Society.

Mr. APPLETON, from the Committee on the proposition of the New York Historical Society, introduced at

* Now printed in *Life and Letters of John Adams*, IX. 342. — EDS.

the last meeting, reported verbally that the Committee have prepared a memorial to Congress, and have forwarded the same to Hon. J. Q. Adams, of the House of Representatives, and a copy thereof to the Secretary of State.

On motion of the President,

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to O. Rich, Esq., of London, for the valuable donation of a copy of his "*Bibliotheca Americana Nova*," 1846.

The Corresponding Secretary being necessarily absent from the meeting, it was further

Voted, That the President be directed to communicate a copy of the vote of thanks to Mr. Rich.

Voted, That this copy of the "*Bibliotheca Americana Nova*," and also the previous publications of Mr. Rich upon the same subject, be inhibited from being taken out of the Library, and that the Librarian make a proper memorandum to that effect.

Voted, That the Librarian send a copy of the last volume of the Collections to Mr. Rich, and one also to Colonel Aspinwall.

The President communicated from Mr. Bancroft a copy of the "Petition of Randall Howlden and John Greene to the Committee of Trade and Plantations." *

Voted, That the Treasurer be directed to pay the bills for printing Vol. IX., third series, as approved by the Publishing Committee.

Also, *voted*, That he be authorized to borrow for the Society the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars; not exceeding that sum.

* The occasion of the presentation of this paper, of ten folio pages, whose date was about February, 1679, was a recent discussion growing out of a misapprehension of the historian Grahame, who erroneously attributed the language of Holden and Greene, agents of the Colony of Rhode Island in England, to John Clarke, also a colony agent at an earlier period. See Grahame, *History of the United States*, I. 317; Quincy, *Memory of the late James Grahame Vindicated*, pp. 7, 14-20; Bancroft, in *Boston Courier*, March 4, 1846; Palfrey, *History of New England*, III. 431; Arnold, *History of Rhode Island*, I. 375. — Eds.

Messrs. F. C. GRAY and CHANDLER were appointed a committee to consider the subject of reprinting the deficient volumes of the Society's Collections, and to devise ways and means therefor.

Voted, That the Librarian be directed to require of the bookseller who sells the Society's printed volumes, to charge one dollar and twenty-five cents per volume for any number less than a series, and one dollar per volume for each series.

Voted, That a committee be appointed by the President's nomination for publishing Vol. X., third series.

Messrs. F. C. GRAY, ROBERT C. WINTHROP, CHARLES F. ADAMS, and N. L. FROTHINGHAM were accordingly appointed.

Judge Davis sent to the meeting a nomination of Richard, Lord Braybrooke, of Audley End, Essex, England, for Corresponding Member.

No communications were received from the members of the Second Section.

Messrs. F. C. GRAY and I. P. DAVIS were chosen to audit the Treasurer's accounts for the year ending in April next.

Present—The President, Adams, Appleton, I. P. Davis, Felt, Francis, Frothingham, F. C. Gray, Lamson, Paige, Pierce, Quincy, Shattuck, Willard, Worcester, and Young.

ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL, 1846.

Thursday, May 7, 12 M. The April meeting was held this day (the inauguration of the President of the University falling on the regular day of the meeting), — the President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Recording Secretary, in the absence of the Corresponding Secretary, communicated letters from the Historical Societies of New Jersey and Kentucky.

The Librarian communicated donations from Messrs. James Loring, Edward Jarvis, H. E. Ludewig, Henry Newman, Nathaniel Perkins, H. G. Somerby, John F. Watson, the Ohio Historical Society, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the American Philosophical Society, the State of New York, and from Messrs. Savage, Everett, Bowen, Bancroft, and Winthrop, of the Society.

Mr. C. F. ADAMS was appointed one of the Committee on the Treasurer's accounts, *vice* Mr. Davis, not then present. The Committee reported as follows, viz. : —

The Committee appointed to examine the accounts of P. W. Chandler, the Treasurer of the Society, have performed that duty, and report that the accounts are well kept, properly vouched, and correctly cast, and that there appears to be a balance due to the Society of sixty-three dollars and forty-six cents.*

F. C. GRAY, } *Committee.*
C. F. ADAMS, }

MAY 7, 1846.

* The receipts were \$234.07. Of this sum \$149.90 appear to be for assessments, \$45.32 for sales of publications, and \$38.85 from Rev. J. B. Felt on ac-

Mr. J. C. GRAY, from the Committee on reprinting the deficient volumes of the Collections, made a report in favor thereof, recommending "that a subscription paper be presented on behalf of the Society to gentlemen likely to favor the object." The report was read and accepted, and is on file.

Voted, That the same Committee stand charged with the execution of the recommendation.

RICHARD, Lord BRAYBROOKE, of Audley End, Essex, England, was elected Corresponding Member, — Messrs. FROTHINGHAM and C. F. ADAMS, Scrutinizing Committee.

The Society then proceeded to the choice of officers for the ensuing year, — Messrs. LAMSON and SIBLEY, Scrutinizing Committee. The Committee reported that the following gentlemen were unanimously chosen, viz. : —

JAMES SAVAGE	PRESIDENT.
JOSEPH WILLARD	RECORDING SECRETARY.
CHARLES LOWELL	CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.
JOSEPH B. FELT	LIBRARIAN.
PELEG W. CHANDLER	TREASURER.
ISAAC P. DAVIS	CABINET-KEEPER.
F. C. GRAY	} STANDING COMMITTEE.
CONVERS FRANCIS	
ALEXANDER YOUNG	
GEORGE TICKNOR	
JOSEPH WILLARD	

Voted, That the Treasurer be directed to keep a separate account of all moneys received from sales of the Society's Collections.

Voted, That Messrs. Frothingham, Blagden, and Robbins be a committee to consider the expediency of obtaining for this Society

count. The payments amounted to \$210.19. Of this sum \$100 were for lining and restoring portraits, and \$110.19 for miscellaneous expenses. — Eds.

a transcript of the records of the first fifty years of the First, Second, and Third Churches in Boston, or such parts thereof as may usefully be given.

The President communicated to the Society a letter from the Secretary of the State of Connecticut, and a copy of a letter to the Secretary from His Excellency Roger S. Baldwin, relating to the claim of that State to the Trumbull manuscripts. After a slight discussion, the subject was postponed to the next meeting, on motion of Judge DAVIS.*

* The following are the papers received from the Secretary of State of Connecticut:—

“STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

“OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE,
HARTFORD, April 29th, 1846.

“TO the MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

“I had the honor duly to receive a copy of the report of your Committee concerning ‘The Trumbull Papers’ in January last, which, with an accompanying letter, I transmitted to His Excellency Governor Baldwin, at New Haven, and from whom I last week received a communication, of which the enclosed is a copy.

“Copies of the documents referred to by Governor Baldwin are also appended.

“DANIEL P. TYLER, *Secretary of State.*”

“NEW HAVEN, April 14th, 1846.

“SIR, — Your letter of the 13th of February, transmitting to me a copy of the report of a committee of the Massachusetts Historical Society, in relation to the Trumbull papers referred to in the resolution of the General Assembly at their last session, was duly received. It appears by the report of the Committee that those papers were received by the Society from David Trumbull, Esq., a son of Governor Trumbull, in the year 1794 or 1795; that they consisted, until the loss of one of them by fire in 1825, of twenty-three volumes, comprising papers principally relating to transactions between the years 1751 and 1785, including the voluminous correspondence of Governor Trumbull and his contemporaries, during a deeply interesting period of our history, and a portion, at least, of that of his predecessors, Governors Law, Wolcott, Fitch, and Pitkin.

“The Committee of the Massachusetts Historical Society appear not to have been aware of the usage which has immemorially prevailed in this State, for the Governor to retain in his own possession the papers pertaining to the executive department during the period of his administration. Had this fact been

No communications were received from the members of the Third Section.

known to them, they would scarcely have deemed it necessary to refer to the exalted characters of Governor Trumbull and his predecessors to vindicate them from the consequence of what the Committee regard as a mistaken assumption by the General Assembly. So far is it from being matter of disparagement to the memories of those illustrious men that public documents of the description of these should have been found among their papers at their decease, or have passed at the expiration of their terms of office into the hands of their successors, that the fact is, on the contrary, in exact accordance with what any one who was conversant with the prevailing usage would naturally have anticipated. But, although this usage alone would satisfactorily account for the accumulation of a vast amount of correspondence and other official documents in the hands of Governor Trumbull during his long and eventful administration, it also appears by the public records of the Colony (Vol. XI. p. 9) that, at the session of the General Assembly in May, 1771, he was 'desired,' by a special resolution, 'to collect all the public letters and papers which might thereafter in any manner affect the interests of the Colony, and have the same bound together, that they might be preserved.'

"At the preceding session, in October, 1770, Gurdon Saltonstall and Joseph Trumbull, a son of the Governor, had been appointed 'to inquire after and collect all the public letters and other papers relating to the affairs of this Colony which properly belonged to the Colony, in whose custody soever the same might be found, *except* those in the hands of his Honor the *present* Governor or in the Secretary's office, and properly sort, arrange, and file the same, according to the order of the time in which they were written, and write on each file the sort of papers it contains and the year they belong to, and lodge the same with the Secretary.' (Col. Rec., Vol. X. p. 533.)

"In the execution of this authority, Joseph Trumbull addressed a letter to Governor Fitch, of which a copy is preserved among the papers in the Connecticut Historical Society's collection, filed, in his handwriting, 'Copy to Governor Fitch, May, 1771,' of the tenor following, viz. :—

"HARTFORD, 6th June, 1771.

"HON. SIR,—Colonel Saltonstall and myself were, by the General Assembly, in October last, appointed to collect all the papers, books, &c., belonging to the Colony, sort and file them in order, and lodge them in the Secretary's office. I have collected the most or all I could find or hear of, except those in your Honor's keeping, which the distance and difficulty of transportation during the winter has prevented. And now I know not what quantity, or what method to take to get them. I have, therefore, desired the favor of Mr. Thomas Belden to wait on your Honor, and consult the most convenient and least expensive manner of transportation, and advise me accordingly. Your Honor's advice and assistance in this matter will greatly oblige me.

"Your Honor's most obedient humble servant,

JOS. TRUMBULL.'

"This letter was written six years after Governor Fitch had retired from office, and furnishes evidence that the official papers in his possession at the

Present — The President, C. F. Adams, Appleton, Chandler, J. Davis, I. P. Davis, Felt, Francis, Frothing-

close of his administration had not then been withdrawn. It was written, also, just after the passing of the resolution of May, 1771, desiring Governor Trumbull to collect and bind together, for preservation, all the public letters and papers which might thereafter affect the interests of the Colony. The documents which the former Committee were then engaged in collecting would, therefore, necessarily pass into the hands of Governor Trumbull, under that resolution. And when it is borne in mind that these collections were made by the agency of his son, Joseph Trumbull, alone, as appears by the letter of that gentleman to Governor Fitch, there seems to be little reason to doubt that the papers of the former administrations which were found with Governor Trumbull's, at his decease (except such as may be presumed to have come to him, on his accession to office, from his immediate predecessor), were the result of the collections which were made by the special direction of the General Assembly.

"I think it will be well for you to suggest these views to the Massachusetts Historical Society, and to transmit to them copies of the resolutions of the General Assembly to which reference has been made.

"I cannot but hope that, on a careful reconsideration of this matter, the Society will be convinced that the papers in question of right belong to the State of Connecticut, and ought to be deposited in our public archives.

"Very respectfully yours,

"ROGER S. BALDWIN.

"HON. DANIEL P. TYLER,
Secretary of State of Connecticut."

"Anno Regni Regis Georgii Tertii 11mo.

"At a General Assembly of the Governor and Company of His Majesty's English Colony of Connecticut in New England in America, holden at Hartford, in said Colony, on the second Thursday of May, being the ninth day of said month, and continued by several adjournments until the seventh day of June next following, Annoque Domini 1771, —

"*Resolved*, by this Assembly, that His Honor the Governor be desired to collect all the public letters and papers which may hereafter in any way affect the interests of this Colony, and have the same bound together, that they may be preserved."

"Anno Regni Georgii Tertii Regis 10mo.

"At a General Assembly of the Governor and Company of the Colony of Connecticut in New England in America, holden at New Haven, in said Colony, on the second Thursday of October, and continued by several adjournments to the second day of November next following, Annoque Domini 1770, —

"This Assembly do appoint Gurdon Saltonstall, Esq., and Captain Joseph Trumbull to inquire after and collect all the public letters and other papers relating to the affairs of this Colony which properly belong to the Colony, in whose custody soever the same may be found, except those in the hands of His Honor the present Governor or in the Secretary's office, and properly sort,

ham, F. C. Gray, Jenks, Lamson, Ripley, Robbins, Sibley, White, Willard, and Young.

JOSEPH WILLARD,

Recording Secretary.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, May 28, 1846, 12 M. The May meeting was held this day, — the President in the chair.

The Recording Secretary being absent, Rev. CHANDLER ROBBINS was appointed Recording Secretary *pro tem*.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from the State of Massachusetts, the family of Rev. Dr. Belknap,* Messrs. James Savage, Josiah Quincy, Jr., O. Rich, of London, Dr. Thomas H. Webb, John Davis, of Boston, J. L. Sibley, S. Lincoln, Josiah Quincy, F. Brinley, R. C. Winthrop, and A. H. Palmer.

Voted, That the further consideration of the communications from the State of Connecticut be referred to the same Committee which reported on the subject in December last.

I. P. Davis having asked to be excused from serving on this Committee, his request was granted, and F. C. GRAY was appointed in his stead.

FRANCIS C. GRAY, from the Committee charged with

arrange, and file the same, according to the order of the time in which they were written, and write on each file the sort of papers it contains and the year they belong to, and lodge the same with the Secretary." — Eds.

* The Donation Book simply records "Papers from the family of Rev. Dr. Belknap." — Eds.

reprinting the deficient volumes of the Society's Collections, and obtaining subscriptions in favor of the object, reported verbally that the Committee had been successful in raising the whole amount required, and presented a paper, which, by a vote of the Society, is here transcribed:—

We, the undersigned, severally promise to pay the sums set against our names respectively to the Treasurer of the Massachusetts Historical Society, for the reprinting of certain volumes of said Society's Collections:—

N. Appleton	One hundred dollars.
Abbott Lawrence	" "
J. A. Lowell	" "
P. C. Brooks	" "
Samuel Appleton	" "
David Sears	" "
Thomas H. Perkins	" "
John Welles	" "
William Appleton, by F. C. Gray .	" "
William Sturgis, by F. C. Gray .	" "
S. A. Eliot	" "
J. C. Gray	" "
T. W. Ward	" "
John Eliot Thayer	" "
Josiah Quincy	Fifty dollars.
Francis C. Lowell	" "
Robert G. Shaw	" "
William H. Prescott, by F. C. Gray	" "
William Lawrence, by F. C. Gray .	" "
Eben Francis, by F. C. Gray . .	" "
(For the next volume, if not needed for the reprint.)	
F. C. Gray	One hundred dollars.

Voted, That the Secretary send a note to each of the subscribers to the fund for reprinting the deficient volumes of the Collections, who is not a member, expressing the thanks of the Society for his liberal donation to that fund, and informing him that he is authorized hence-

forth to exercise the same right of taking out books from the Library of the Society as any of its members ; and that any persons introduced to the Librarian by a note from him will have free access to the Library for six months, which permission may be renewed as often as he shall see fit.

The Treasurer stated that he had procured by subscription from several members of the Society the sum of three hundred and twenty-five dollars, to be appropriated to the payment of the debt contracted by the Society for printing the last volume of the Collections, amounting to three hundred and thirteen dollars and seventeen cents.

Judge WHITE, by a few appropriate remarks, called the attention of the Society to the death of their late respected associate, the Hon. John Pickering ; and, after having paid a brief tribute to his memory, offered the following vote, which was unanimously adopted : —

Voted, That William H. Prescott be appointed to prepare a memoir of the life and character of the Hon. John Pickering for the Society's Collections.*

The Corresponding Secretary mentioned to the meeting that he had long had in his possession certain boxes of plants, the property of this Society, which, he was under the impression, had once been offered to the Natural History Society, although he could not refer to any vote to that effect ; and he therefore asked the direction of the Society in regard to their disposal. The matter was referred to the Corresponding Secretary and Mr. I. P. DAVIS.

* The Hon. John Pickering was a member of the Society from 1818 to 1831, and again from 1835 until his death, May 5, 1846. Mr. Prescott's memoir of him is in 3 Collections, Vol. X. pp. 204-224. — Eds.

No communications were received from the members of the First Section.

Present — The President, C. F. Adams, Austin, Chandler, I. P. Davis, F. C. Gray, J. C. Gray, Lincoln, Lowell, Quincy, Robbins, White, and Worcester.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, June 25, 1846, 12 M. The President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from M. Jomard, of Paris, Mr. J. Peel Dabney, Henry Onderdonk, Jr., Rev. William Newell, Hon. J. T. Morehead, Don Pedro de Angelis, and from Messrs. Everett, Quincy, Winthrop, Sibley, and Greenleaf, of the Society.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated a donation of a copy of the address of Hon. James T. Morehead before the Kentucky Historical Society. Also, a letter from Don Pedro de Angelis, of Buenos Ayres, accompanied with a donation, being a continuation of the narrative of the mission of W. G. Ouseley and Baron Deffaudis.* Also, a communication from the New York Historical Society, requesting the co-operation of this Society in a memorial to Congress, in favor of reducing the duties on foreign books, maps, charts, &c., and

* For the title of the documents presented by Don Pedro de Angelis at this time and previously, see the printed catalogue, under "Argentine Confederation." — Eds.

remonstrating especially against any abridgment of the privilege of importing books and other articles free of duty now enjoyed by the Philosophical Societies, colleges, academies, and schools.

Whereupon, Messrs. GREENLEAF, JENKS, and C. F. ADAMS were appointed to co-operate with the New York Historical Society in their memorial.

Subsequently, at the meeting, Mr. GREENLEAF reported that the Committee had adopted the New York memorial as the form for this Society, and would forward the same to Hon. J. Q. Adams, to be presented to Congress.

The Librarian and Treasurer were authorized in their discretion to expend a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars in binding the pamphlets in the Library.

The Standing Committee nominated Richard Frothingham, Jr., of Charlestown, for Resident Member, *vice* Hon. John Pickering, deceased.

Present — The President, C. F. Adams, Chandler, I. P. Davis, Ellis, Felt, Francis, Greenleaf, Jenks, Lamson, Lowell, Lunt, Minot, Palfrey, Pierce, Ripley, Robbins, Sibley, White, Willard, and Young.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, July 30, 1846, 12 M. The President being absent, the Hon. F. C. GRAY was chosen President *pro tem.*; and, in the absence of the Recording Secretary, J. L. SIBLEY was chosen Recording Secretary *pro tem.*

The Librarian communicated donations from Messrs. George Heard, David Pulsifer, J. W. Thornton, Richard Frothingham, Jr., William Newell, the Rhode Island Historical Society, the New York Historical Society, Rev. Joseph Hunter, Messrs. William Allen, Henry D. Thoreau, William E. Du Bois, Joseph Blunt, and from Messrs. Sibley and Bowen, of the Society.

A letter of acknowledgment for the use of the Historical Rooms during the time of the repairs of the rooms of the Institution for Savings, was received, containing a check for one hundred and twenty-five dollars, signed by the Treasurer, agreeably to a vote of that institution.

Dr. LOWELL, Chairman of the Committee to whom was referred the subject of the plants belonging to the Society, made a verbal report. Whereupon, it was

Voted, That the collection of plants presented to this Society by the Hon. Thomas H. Perkins, Dec. 23, 1795, be deposited with the Natural History Society of Boston during the pleasure of the Massachusetts Historical Society; it being understood that this Society shall have access to them at such times and through such agents as they shall appoint, and that the Natural History Society give their receipt for the same, and be allowed to take a copy of the catalogue of them now in the Library of the Historical Society.

Dr. LOWELL stated that while in Europe he received several papers from Mr. Disney, with authority to make such disposition of them as he thought best, and that he had placed them in the Library of this Society; that three of the letters contained in the parcel were written by Mrs. Mayhew to Thomas Hollis, of Lincoln's Inn, London; and that her grandson was very desirous to obtain one or more of them. The three letters were

read; and, after several suggestions and some discussion, it was finally

Voted, That the letter of Mrs. Mayhew to Thomas Hollis, dated Oct. 16, 1766, be presented to her grandson, Mr. Peter Wainwright, he leaving a copy of it with the Society.

Pelham W. Warren, through Mr. I. P. Davis, presented to the Society a letter written by Governor Thomas Prince, May 5, 1661, and it was referred to the Publishing Committee.

On motion of the Corresponding Secretary, it was

Voted, That the Librarian, when any volume of the Society's Collections is published, call on the Chairman of the Publishing Committee for all documents referred to the Committee which relate to the volume.

RICHARD FROTHINGHAM, Jr., was elected a Resident Member, *vice* Hon. John Pickering, deceased.

Present — C. F. Adams, Codman, J. Davis, I. P. Davis, Felt, Frothingham, F. C. Gray, J. C. Gray, Lowell, Palfrey, Pierce, Shattuck, Sibley, and Young.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Tuesday, Aug. 25, 1846, 12 M. The President in the chair.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from the Maryland Historical Society, Messrs. Appleton, of New York, Hon. John Davis, of Worcester, Rev. Joseph Allen and A. W. McClure, Messrs. George Hood, Pelham

W. Warren, Dr. John O. Greene, and from Messrs. Winthrop and I. P. Davis, of the Society.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated a letter of acceptance from Richard Frothingham, Jr.

On motion of Mr. YOUNG,

Voted, To present a copy of the Society's Collections to the Nantucket Athenæum, and that the Librarian be directed to forward the same as soon as a complete copy can be furnished.

The Librarian informed the Society that Vol. I., third series, had been reprinted.

Voted, That the Recording Secretary be directed to communicate to the Chairman of the Committee on the Index to the third series the desire of the Society to be possessed of the information requested by the vote at the last February meeting.

Dr. FROTHINGHAM reported verbally that the ministers of the First, Second, and Third Churches in Boston had taken measures to have transcripts made of their respective church records, pursuant to the Society's vote at the last April meeting.

Present — The President, J. Q. Adams, Felt, Francis, N. L. Frothingham, Lowell, Minot, Quincy, Shattuck, Willard, and Young.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, Sept. 24, 1846, 12 M. In the absence of the President, Hon. SAMUEL HOAR was chosen President *pro tem*.

The Librarian communicated donations from Henry W. Cushman, J. Wingate Thornton, Rev. S. F. Allen,

Lieutenant J. M. Gillis, and also from Messrs. I. P. Davis, J. C. Gray, Winthrop, Sibley, and Worcester, of the Society.

He also communicated a letter addressed to the President from Lord Braybrooke, July 2, 1846, tendering his acknowledgments for his election as a Corresponding Member.

Mr. LINCOLN, from the Index Committee, reported verbally of expected early progress.

Mr. SHATTUCK, in behalf of Wiley & Putnam, of New York, who are collecting, as agents for the British Museum, copies of works published in this country, requested that the subject of presenting to the institution a copy of our Collections be referred to a committee to report thereupon, which was voted accordingly, and the subject was referred to the Librarian.

Present — Appleton, J. Davis, Felt, R. Frothingham, Jr., Hoar, Lamson, Lincoln, Lowell, Shattuck, White, Willard, Worcester, and Young; and, on the eve of adjournment, Messrs. Bowen and F. C. Gray.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, Oct. 29, 1846. The President in the chair. The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from Messrs. Charles Deane, Edward Jarvis, Benjamin P. Poore, H. Weld Fuller, the Family of the late Hon. John Pickering, "A Friend," the American Board of Commission-

ers for Foreign Missions, the New York Historical Society, and from Messrs. Sibley, Lamson, and Bowen, of this Society.

The Recording Secretary, in the absence of the Corresponding Secretary, communicated a letter from Charles William Bradley, Esq., the Secretary of State for the State of Connecticut, with further copies of the documents forwarded to the Society last spring, relating to the claim of the State of Connecticut to the Trumbull manuscripts. Whereupon, it was

Voted, To refer the same to the Committee having the subject in charge, and that they be requested to call a special meeting as soon as they are ready to report.

Voted, That the Committee having in charge the reprinting of the deficient volumes of the Collections, be directed to delay the reprint of Hubbard's History.

Also, *voted*, That the Librarian write to Mr. Henry Stevens, now in England, in behalf of the Society, and express to him the desire of the Society to have the means of supplying the deficiencies in the printed volume of Hubbard's History, from the manuscript copy now in England, and that was formerly in the possession of the late Judge Oliver.

The Librarian reported in favor of presenting a copy of the Collections of the Society to the British Museum, which report, after having been read, was laid upon the table.

Mr. PAIGE informed the Society that Samuel Batchelder, Esq., has a copy of the Catalogue of Manuscripts in the British Museum, which he will present to the Society, if such be their desire. Whereupon,

Voted, That the Society will accept the same, and that they tender thanks to Mr. Batchelder for his kind offer.

Voted, That as the day of the Annual Thanksgiving falls on the

stated day of the next meeting of the Society, the next meeting be held on Thursday, November 19th next, at 12 o'clock m.

Present — The President, J. Q. Adams, Austin, Chandler, Codman, J. Davis, I. P. Davis, Felt, N. L. Frothingham, R. Frothingham, Jr., Lamson, Paige, Pierce, Robbins, Shattuck, Sibley, White, Willard, Worcester, and Young.

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, Nov. 19, 1846, 12 m. The Society held their stated meeting, — the President in the chair.

The Recording Secretary being absent, ALEXANDER YOUNG was chosen Recording Secretary *pro tem*.

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from Mr. Charles Stoddard, of Boston, and F. C. Gray.

Mr. I. P. DAVIS read a letter from Mr. J. F. Watson, of Germantown, Pennsylvania, presenting to the Society a copy of his work on the "Early Annals of New York."

Mr. P. W. CHANDLER read a letter from Mr. Theophilus Parsons, communicating a paper addressed by Dr. Benjamin Vaughan, of Hallowell, Maine, to the late Chief Justice Parsons, relating to Cook's, Drake's, and Anson's voyages, and a universal standard of weights and measures.* Whereupon, it was

* This letter, which is dated at "Hallowell, July 8, 1807," and consists of some twenty-five pages, is a critical dissertation on the observations and statements of the historians of these voyages, and might possibly repay publication. But his criticisms may be superseded by later writers. — Eds.

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Mr. Parsons for this document.

Some remarks were made by Mr. JOHN C. GRAY and others, concerning the expediency of printing a catalogue of the books in the Library, but no action was taken on the subject.

Voted, That one hundred and four dollars be granted to Mr. Felt, the Librarian, for his services this year.

The Committee on the Trumbull Papers made a report, closing with the following vote : —

Voted, That the Historical Society of Massachusetts, having most respectfully considered the application of the State of Connecticut for the collection of papers arranged and bound up by the said Society, and by them called the “Trumbull Papers,” beg leave to decline complying with it, being of the opinion that it is their duty to preserve the same in their own Library, in conformity with the will of the donors.

After some remarks by Messrs. F. C. GRAY, QUINCY, and CHANDLER, all sustaining the principles and views of the report, it was

Voted, unanimously, that the report of the Committee be accepted, and the vote they recommend be adopted.*

* The following is the report in Mr. Gray's hand : —

“MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
Nov. 19th, 1846.

“The Committee to whom was referred the renewed application of the Secretary of Connecticut, on behalf of that State, for the Trumbull papers, beg leave to report : —

“That, in their opinion, the simple fact that these papers have been in the undisputed possession of this Society for more than half a century, is of itself, a sufficient answer to such a claim.

“But, moreover, there are good grounds for maintaining that, so far is the Society from being bound to yield to this claim, that it is bound not to do so. The letter by which these papers were spontaneously offered to the Society is

Present — The President, Appleton, Chandler, I. P. Davis, Ellis, Felt, R. Frothingham, Jr., F. C. Gray, J. C. Gray, Paige, Quincy, Sibley, Ticknor, and Young.

dated April 15th, 1794, and signed by David Trumbull, one of Governor Trumbull's sons; and it expressly declares that they were collected by his father, 'with the intention that they should be preserved and deposited in some public library, as materials for future historians'; and proceeds thus:—

"'Had the Massachusetts Historical Society existed during his life, there is no doubt but he would have chosen to give them to an institution, whose patriotic views they would so directly subserve, in preference to a collegiate or other library, where they probably would soon become "food for worms."'

"'His heirs, therefore, think they cannot so well fulfil the Governor's intentions on this subject, as by offering them, as I am commissioned to do, to the Massachusetts Historical Society.

"'You will be pleased to communicate this offer to the Society in our names,—permitting us to suggest the propriety of their sending some person to make a selection of such papers as may be thought most useful.'

"This offer was accepted. The donation consisted of a great mass of unconnected papers and loose files of a very miscellaneous character, extending from A. D. 1630 to 1784; many of them entirely private and even domestic letters; many not relating peculiarly to Connecticut, some not at all; many rough drafts; many mere copies, and such other papers as cannot even be conjectured to have originally belonged to that State; many circular, supernumerary, or printed documents.

"The Society caused them to be properly arranged, bound in twenty-three folio volumes and carefully indexed, as the best means of accomplishing the will of the collector and the donors, to render them useful to future historians. They remain in its Library, accessible for this purpose to all proper applicants; and copies of any of them may be taken by the State of Connecticut.

"Now this Society having accepted the gift made, on the terms above cited, is bound to fulfil those terms so far as it lawfully can. It is executing a trust, and has no more right than an executor or other trustee to waive its legal claims, or to dispose of the trust property in any other manner or for any other purposes, than the terms and the nature of the trust require.

"The claim of Connecticut rests on a resolve of the General Assembly, passed on the 7th of June, 1771, a resolve suggested probably by the well-known fact, that Governor Trumbull was a most diligent collector of all sorts of manuscripts. It is in the following words:—

"'That his honor the Governor be desired to collect all the public letters and papers which may hereafter in any way affect the interests of this colony, and have the same bound together that they may be preserved.'

"Now this was no part of his official duty. It is certain that he never complied with the request; *at least so far as these papers are concerned*: and there is no evidence that he ever agreed or intended to do so. Indeed the only evidence (and very strong evidence it is) of his intentions with regard to them,

MONTHLY MEETING.

Thursday, Dec. 31, 1846, 12 M. The Society held their stated meeting. The President being absent, Mr. HOAR was chosen President *pro tem*.

is the express declaration in the letter above cited, which also evinces his great anxiety for their preservation.

"Another resolve of the same assembly, passed six months earlier, viz., Nov. 2, 1770, has also been communicated. It appoints Gurdon Saltonstall, Esq., and Captain Joseph Trumbull, one of the Governor's sons, to collect all public letters and other papers, &c., which properly belong to the colony (except those in the hands of the then Governor or in the Secretary's office) 'and properly sort, arrange, and file the same, according to the order of time in which they were written, and write on each file the sort of papers it contains, and the year they belong to and lodge the same with the Secretary.'

"We do not see how this resolve can affect our opinion. The conjecture suggested to us, that public papers collected by these commissioners — already properly sorted, arranged, filed, and indorsed, in the manner so particularly prescribed, and formally deposited in the Secretary's office — may have been taken out of it by Governor Trumbull, and mixed up with his own miscellaneous collection, under color of the resolve of 1771, appears to be gratuitous, no evidence being adduced of the fact that he did so.

"At any rate, it is not for this Society to call in question the right to these papers, on the part of those from whom it thus holds them in trust.

"There are obvious reasons why Governor Trumbull should choose to place his collection in some public library, rather than in the office of any department of State, even though he may not have thought it proper to answer the invitation conveyed by the resolve of 1771 by a *formal refusal*.

"On the whole your Committee recommend the adoption of the following vote : —

"*Voted*, that the Historical Society of Massachusetts, having most respectfully considered the application of the State of Connecticut for the collection of papers, arranged and bound up by the said Society, and by them called the Trumbull Papers, beg leave to decline complying with it, being of opinion that it is their duty to preserve the same in their own Library, in conformity with the will of the donors.'

"F. C. GRAY,
JAMES SAVAGE, } Committee.
JOSIAH QUINCY, }

"MEMORANDUM. — The Committee would further add that the remark in the report of the former Committee, Jan. 1, 1846, that the nineteenth volume *alone* contained papers of earlier date than 1751, should have been that it contained *only* such papers, many between 1630 and 1700 still remain.

"F. C. GRAY, *for the Committee*."

The record of the last meeting was read.

The Librarian communicated donations from Professor Rafn, of Copenhagen, Messrs. Little & Brown, William S. Russell, Samuel Batchelder, Charles Stoddard, Henry Stevens, the American Philosophical Society, the Pennsylvania Historical Society, and the National Institute.

The Librarian reported that he had received a letter from Mr. Henry Stevens, in London, in answer to the Librarian's letter under the vote of the last October meeting, relative to obtaining, from the manuscript copy of Hubbard's History that was in the possession of the late Judge Oliver, the means of supplying the deficiencies in the Society's printed copy of the History, and that Mr. Stevens would pay early attention to the request of the Society.*

No communications were received from the members of the Second Section.

Present — I. P. Davis, Felt, Hoar, Paige, Ripley, Sibley, Ticknor, Willard, and Worcester.

* Mr. Stevens was not so happy as to succeed in any attempts he may have made to supply these deficiencies. More than thirty years later, they were communicated to the Society through another medium. See Proceedings for January and February, 1878, pp. 12, 13, 38-41. — Eds.